

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 18, 31, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and claims 2-17, 19-30, 32-44, and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 18, 31, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,557 ("Gabara"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since Gabara does not disclose each and every element required by these claims, as amended.

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to require the method to include "selecting the area code for recall prior to initiating entry of the local phone number into the telephonic apparatus" and "recalling the selected area code in response to the selection of the area code and entry of the local phone number." Independent claims 31 and 45 were amended to require the telephonic apparatus to include "a user interface configured for allowing a user to select the stored area code for recall and to enter the local phone number."

In contrast, the Gabara telephone system does not provide any means for selecting an area code for recall prior to initiating entry of the local phone number, such as, e.g., a user interface that may allow a user to select the area code prior to entering the local phone number. Instead, the Gabara telephone system utilizes an exchange/area code database that stores area codes and associated 3-digit exchange numbers. (See col. 3, lines 61-65). When a user dials a local phone number into a telephone connected to the system, the system recalls the area code associated with the 3-digit exchange number sensed within the dialed local phone number, and inserts it before the

local phone number prior to transmitting the phone number from the system. (See col. 4, lines 57-67). However, there are least two disadvantages to this technique.

First, because the Gabara telephone system must use the 3-digit exchange number to recall the correct area code, all exchange numbers that correspond to that area code must be stored within the Gabara system either by downloading the exchange numbers and corresponding area codes from a central database and/or requiring the user to manually input the exchange numbers and area codes into the system. (See col. 4, lines 37-56 and col. 5, lines 17-42). In contrast, the inventive method of claims 1 and 18 selects the area code to be recalled prior to entry of the local phone number by the user, and thus, does not require storage of the exchange numbers. For example, the inventive telephone apparatus of claims 31 and 45 provides a user interface that allows the user to select the stored area code for recall. For example, a plurality of area codes can be programmed into the telephonic apparatus either by the user or the manufacturer, and then, sometime prior to entering the local phone number, one of these area codes can be manually selected by depressing an area code selection key corresponding to the desired area code to be recalled. (See specification, page 19, line 20 to page 20, line 2). Of course, this limitation does not exclude the scenario where only a single area code can be stored in the telephonic apparatus, in which case, the area code can be manually selected by a user or manufacturer for recall simply by programming the area code within the telephonic apparatus.

Thus, it can be appreciated that the claimed invention only requires one or more area codes to be programmed into the telephonic apparatus, and therefore obviates the need to download or otherwise program the large number of exchange numbers into a telephonic apparatus otherwise required by the Gabara telephone system.

Second, any given 3-digit exchange number stored in the Gabara telephone system can only be assigned to one area code, and thus, the Gabara telephone system can only automatically dial certain area codes. Gabara suggests that the telephone system only be programmed with two area codes: an old area code and a new area code within a split area code region. (See col. 3, line 66 col. 4, line 6). Thus, the programming of the Gabara telephone system with area codes is somewhat limited. Alternatively, more than one area code can be associated with a given exchange number. However, this would require prompting the user to select which area code to recall after the phone number has been dialed, which would defeat the purpose of automating the system. (See col. 4, lines 31-36). In contrast, the claimed method and apparatus allows selection of the recalled area code prior to entry of the local phone number, thereby obviating any concern of conflicting area codes.

Thus, it can be appreciated that the claimed invention allows area code(s) to be programmed into a telephonic apparatus without concern for 3-digit exchange numbers, and once programmed and selected for recall, allows the telephonic apparatus to automatically dial the selected area code in a manner that is transparent to the user.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1, 18, 31, and 45 are not anticipated by Gabara, and as such, respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejections of these claims.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-17, 19-30, 32-44, and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Gabara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,305,372 to Tomiyori ("Tomiyori"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,157,719 to Waldman ("Waldman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since none of Gabara, Tomiyori, and Waldman, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the combination of elements required by these claims, as amended.

Specifically, Tomiyori and Waldman do not suggest that an area code stored in the Gabara telephone system can be selected for recall prior to initiating entry of the local phone number into the telephonic apparatus, as required by independent claims 1 and 18, or that the Gabara telephone system have a user interface for allowing a user to select an area code for recall, as required by independent claims 31 and 45.

Thus, Applicant submits that the dependent claims (2-17, 19-30, 32-44, and 46-48) are not obvious in view of Gabara, Tomiyori, and Waldman, and as such, respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

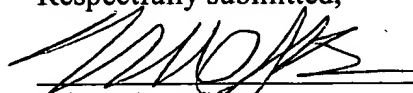
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 725-0089.

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Respectfully submitted,


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